



## Frequently-Asked Questions about Moving the DAS Motor Pool

February 10, 2005

1. **What is the move all about?** The Department of Administrative Services--General Services Enterprise (DAS-GSE) is planning a move that will use about 300 spaces at the top levels of the parking structure. State vehicles will be transferred from two lots at East Seventh Street and Walnut Avenue and East Fifth and Allen Streets. Included are retired vehicles held for quarterly sale to the public, new vehicles received for assignment to state agencies and vehicles used for trips of up to three weeks.
2. **What is current occupancy of the parking structure?** On a daily basis, 300 to 400 of the 891 structure spaces are used. Legislative session, events at the New Iowa Historical Building and other Capitol Complex events create wide fluctuations in this number.
3. **What is the business case for the move?** The move meets several basic DAS-GSE goals:
  - *It frees up essential parking* for the employees who will occupy the Records and Property Center once that renovation is complete.
  - *It enhances security for traveling state employees and vehicles.* Employees returning state vehicles will appreciate the increased security and covered parking for their vehicles while they are using state cars, and they will no longer need an escort when returning a state vehicle. It will eliminate on-street parking, which has provided a convenient opportunity for vandals who want to break antennas and windows, steal batteries and tires, and sideswipe cars.
  - *It saves money.* Vehicles stored at the parking structure will remain cleaner, reducing washing expenses. The new location will expedite the work of mechanics moving new or auction vehicles from place to place, and make it possible for people with disabilities to view cars during auctions. Because the parking structure is within easy walking distance, two mechanics will not be required to move cars from one location to another, an activity that takes place some 500 times per year and costs about \$5,000 in wages and mileage. Ending the lease at East Fifth and Allen will free up \$8,400 annually.
4. **What costs are involved?** Eliminating the lease at East Fifth and Allen will free up \$8,400 per year. This can either be considered a savings and DAS rates can be reduced accordingly or the amount can be paid into the General Fund on annual basis as a continuing cost and included in DAS rates. The addition of a small office and enclosure of stairwells and a gate at the parking structure will generate one-time costs of about \$40,000.

5. **What can be done to free up parking spaces during public events that increase the demand for parking on the Capitol complex?** The vehicles can be moved to on-street parking to accommodate public access to the parking structure during public events.
  
6. **Who has been involved in discussion of the move?** At a January 2004 joint meeting, the Capitol Planning Commission and the Iowa Vertical Infrastructure Advisory Committee endorsed removal of the DAS Motor Pool from its current location as part of the Records and Property Center Renovation. The Capitol Planning Commission was notified of the move at its October 2004 meeting.